



# State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

## \*\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*\*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### More students take Advanced Placement exams

*Participation by students of color increases 8.8 percent from previous year*

MADISON—Wisconsin's progress in offering rigorous high school coursework through Advanced Placement (AP) continued with more students taking AP exams in 2005 than in the previous school year. The one-year increase in overall participation was 6.3 percent, and participation by students of color climbed by 8.8 percent.

"We can be proud of the growth in AP participation and of the diligence of our students in achieving success on these exams," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "Students who take Advanced

Placement coursework experience the rigor of college-level studies and gain a competitive advantage when passing the end-of-year AP exam because they earn college-level credit for their efforts."

During the 2004-05 school year, 18,896 public school students took 29,890 AP exams. In the previous year, 17,768 students took 27,984 AP exams. Nationally, 1,017,056 public school students took 1,747,852 AP exams in 2004-05, and 57.6 percent of students earned a grade of three or higher, which is considered passing and eligible for college credit at most colleges and universities. In Wisconsin, 67.2 percent of students who took AP exams earned a grade of 3-5 on the exams.

In the College Board's second annual Advanced Placement Report to the Nation, an analysis that looks at AP based on graduates who take an exam during their high school career, Wisconsin had

(more)

#### 2005 AP Program Public Schools

	Wisconsin	Nation
Number of Candidates	18,896	1,017,056
Number of Exams	29,890	1,747,852
Number of Grades 3-5	20,085	1,006,028
Percent Earning Grades of 3-5	67.2	57.6

12,878 public school graduates in the class of 2005 participating in AP. This represents a one-year increase of 4.8 percent in the number of graduates taking an AP exam and a 44.6 percent increase over five years. As a percentage of 2005 graduates, 21.1 percent took an AP exam during high school, up from 20.0 percent in 2004 and 15.2 percent in 2000.

“Every student should have access to Advanced Placement coursework regardless of where they live,” stated Burmaster. “To meet that goal and continue our efforts to close the achievement gap, we have some important efforts under way to expand AP opportunities to students throughout the state.”

The 2005-07 state budget included \$200,000 for Burmaster’s initiative to provide incentive grants to start AP programming in the 25 percent of public high schools that do not currently offer AP classes. Additionally, the Department of Public Instruction recently won a competitive National Governors Association grant focused on increasing AP course offerings. Participants in the NGA grant, which partners one urban and eight rural districts, have begun work on starting or expanding AP offerings for urban and rural students.

“Grants and initiatives working in Wisconsin will help us improve our AP programming to underserved and underrepresented student populations,” Burmaster said. “As we increase participation in AP coursework, we must ensure that all students, regardless of their background, receive the academic preparation and have the opportunity to succeed in AP courses and postsecondary studies.”

U.S. History was the most popular AP course in Wisconsin last year with 4,257 public school students taking the exam. Next in popularity was English Literature and Composition taken by 4,039 public school AP students. The highest passing rates occurred in Calculus BC (81.5 percent) and Psychology (79.0 percent).

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**ATTACHMENT:** Tables that provide additional background about Advanced Placement in Wisconsin are attached.

# 2005 Advanced Placement in Wisconsin

## AP Report to the Nation

Public School Students

Wisconsin	Class of	
	2000	2005
Graduates Taking an AP Exam	8,907	12,878
Percent Taking an AP Exam	15.2	21.1
Percent Earning Grades of 3-5	10.5	14.5
<b>Nation</b>		
Graduates Taking an AP Exam	405,475	609,807
Percent Taking an AP Exam	15.9	22.7
Percent Earning Grades of 3-5	10.2	14.1

## AP Participation by Racial/Ethnic Group

Public School Students

	Candidates		Percent Increase in Participation
	2004	2005	
African American	333	374	12.3
American Indian	78	82	5.1
Asian	680	717	5.4
Hispanic*	373	420	12.6
White	15,796	16,652	5.4
Other	238	248	N/A
Not Stated	270	403	N/A
Total	17,768	18,896	6.3

\* Includes Mexican American, Puerto Rican, and Other Hispanic

## 2005 AP Results for Selected Examinations

Public School Students

Examination	Candidates	Number Earning Grades 3-5	Percent Earning Grades 3-5
Biology	1,966	1,292	65.7
Chemistry	1,289	819	63.5
English Language and Composition	2,330	1,596	68.5
English Literature and Composition	4,039	2,703	66.9
History: European	1,209	949	78.5
History: United States	4,257	2,364	55.5
Mathematics: Calculus AB	3,421	2,213	64.7
Mathematics: Calculus BC	914	745	81.5
Mathematics: Statistics	998	699	70.0
Psychology	3,238	2,559	79.0
U.S. Government and Politics	1,216	751	61.8